

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE PORT TOWNSEND CITY COUNCIL, PORT OF
PORT TOWNSEND COMMISSION, AND JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY
DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2022

The City, Port, and Jefferson County PUD met in a special business meeting at the Point Hudson Pavilion Building, 355 Hudson Street, Port Townsend, and also online via Zoom.

Port Townsend City Council and staff: Mayor/Councilmember David Faber, Deputy Mayor/Councilmember Amy Howard, Councilmember Owen Rowe, Councilmember Ben Thomas, Councilmember Libby Wennstrom, and Councilmember Monica MickHager (via zoom). Councilmember Aislinn Diamanti excused. Staff present: Public Works Director Steve King and City Manager John Mauro.

Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 Board of Commissioners and staff: Commissioner/President Kenneth Collins President (via zoom), Commissioner/Secretary Dan Toepper, and Commissioner/Vice President Jeff Randall. Staff present: Broadband and Communications Director Will O'Donnell and General Manager Kevin Streett.

Port of Port Townsend Commission and staff: Commissioner/Vice President Carol Hasse and Commissioner/Secretary Pete Hanke. Commissioner/President Pam Petranek excused. Staff present: Director of Capital Projects & Port Engineer Matt Klontz and Executive Director Eron Berg. And Port Recorder Sanders

- I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Rec. 00:10:24)
Commissioner Hasse called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- II. SPECIAL BUSINESS ITEM (Rec. 00:15:15)
 - A. Memorandum of Understanding for Collaborating on Projects Along the Sims Gateway Corridor

Matt Klontz and Steve King gave staff report and presentation. They supplied a project overview, review of partnerships, and community concerns that began the year of learning. Also explained was the work of the stakeholder group as well as differences in agency authority and purpose. The publishing of materials, videos and public comment was hosted by the City. Following a review of the background, timeline and limits of the project, the range of alternatives was presented and documented in the staff memos. Options were “no expansion,” “partial expansion,” and “full expansion.”

Steve King reviewed the plans related to Sims Way, including a City Comprehensive Plan Amendment and amendment to the Gateway Plan. He noted the project principles in those plans and differentiated between the guidance documents and the Port Townsend Municipal Code for requirements.

Matt Klontz reviewed boatyard considerations and key principles as well as the aesthetic considerations. There would be a movement away from columnar tree forms to parkway tree forms.

Mr. King reported on the stormwater and soil conditions. Regarding tree replacement on the Kah Tai side of Sims Way, the recommendation is that over time (20 years), trees would be removed based on their condition, and to help the neighboring trees survive. Also covered were other planting considerations and species choice. SCJ Alliance presented the preferred alternative concept.

Clarifying questions were addressed by staff. (00:55:00) on the following topics: maintaining a gap in the boatyard fence for access, releasing the list of tree varieties as well as their height and expected tree sail, whether thinning could be extended to the boatyard side, ADA access on boatyard side and plan for compact or pervious surface, whether existence of heavy metals in the soil is part of the design consideration, which power line was the source of the tingling, new issues that could arise with SEPA, risks and tradeoffs for the alternative power route. In explaining rural distressed county funding to Jefferson County, staff noted if the boatyard is not expanded, the Public Infrastructure Funds (PIF) could not be used, and the PUD would need to bear the costs of undergrounding utilities.

Added comments: This process, including the Parks Board recommendation, has reached several milestones addressing public safety concerns, gathering public comment, and planning for improved reliability in infrastructure. Although there are outstanding questions and more options to be considered, agreeing to the MOU now would allow further partnering and moving forward with SEPA.

Public Comment:

David Goldman, representing the Gateway Poplar Alliance, asked to pursue the focus on the undergrounding of the high voltage lines without tree removal.

Robey Robichaux asked about the score of the Seahawk Bronco game.

Jackie Breslawski was interested in when the trees list would be available for public access. An added concern was about a permeable ADA sidewalk or path.

Jim Burke noted that in the partial expansion choice the boatyard space would continue to be compromised. It appears the preferred option would be for a full boatyard expansion.

Written public comment was supplied as follows (and included in the published agenda packet):

Mike Loriz spoke in support of expanding the Boat Haven and undergrounding electrical service over saving the polars.

Debra Bouchard/James Roberts gave detailed comments in opposition to using Public Infrastructure Funds, as well as City, County, and PUD funding in this way, particularly for any work on the north side of Sims Way.

Peninsula Trails Coalition spoke of support for shared use paths both bordering and connecting to Sims Way.

Port Staff responded to questions about the economic benefit, including job generation with the Boat Haven expansion to the Port's property line. A distinct difference between the preferred option and the PIF grant application was that the PIF grant included removing poplar trees on one side.

Discussion During Deliberation: Poplar tree roots have been a long-time issue and it is exciting to work toward an intentional plan for Sims Way. Responding to a question, PUD noted the power line has not been engineered nor the vault location determined. There was a desire for continued public comment and engagement through design, including stakeholder participation in some form. There was recognition of the aesthetic concerns and community values around the loss of the tree façade. Also noted was the effort given to explain public infrastructure toward economic development for community safety, resilience of the power, and expansion of the boatyard. Public comments have been heard and the needs have at times been difficult to balance. Doing nothing is not an alternative because of safety, age of the trees, and conflict with the boatyard. Whether the partial or full expansion alternative is chosen, it was noted that an easement would need to be recrafted and the end design may not look like the renderings of today. The Port said it could grant an easement for utilities where needed to serve mutual benefit. It was mentioned that between now and a year from now, the public is likely to see the PUD, at a minimum, trimming the trees before storm season.

Port: Pete Hanke moved to go ahead with the Memorandum of Understanding. Carol Hasse seconded. Unanimously approved.

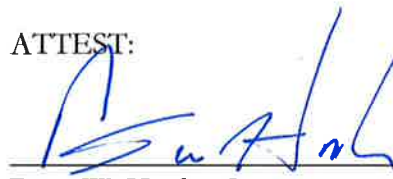
City: Motion to approve the MOU and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to carry out the City's responsibilities as listed in the MOU, including consultant and construction contracts. (Moved by Libby Wennstrom, Seconded by Amy Howard). Unanimously approved.

PUD: Motion that the Board approve the MOU and authorize the General Manager to execute the MOU and any other necessary documents. (Moved by Jeff Randall, seconded by Dan Toepper). Unanimously approved.

III. ADJOURNMENT (Rec. 02:17:45): the City, Port, and PUD meetings were adjourned at 8:37 p.m., there being no further business.

Port of Port Townsend

ATTEST:



Peter W. Hanke, Secretary



Pamela A. Petranek, President



Carol L. Hasse, Vice President

City of Port Townsend

David Faber, Mayor
City of Port Townsend

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Alyssa Rodrigues, City Clerk

Heidi Greenwood, City Attorney

Jefferson County PUD

Approved:

Commissioner Dan Toepper, Secretary

Date _____

Attest:

Commissioner Kenneth Collins, President

Date _____

Commissioner Jeff Randall, Vice President

Date _____